



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 6:45 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Thursday - April 18, 2002

- ***In the West***, cooler weather is reducing irrigation demands across ***southern California and the Southwest***, although extremely dry conditions persist. Meanwhile, cool, showery weather prevails across the ***Intermountain region*** and the ***Northwest***, slowing crop development but boosting soil moisture for dryland small grains.
- ***On the Plains***, a spring snow storm continues in ***Montana***, providing much-needed moisture for drought-stressed pastures and winter wheat. Meanwhile on the ***central and southern Plains***, warm, windy weather is depleting topsoil moisture and further stressing winter wheat, particularly in a broad area centered on ***southwestern Kansas***.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, locally heavy showers and thunderstorms are replenishing soil moisture reserves in parts of the ***upper Mississippi Valley***. Elsewhere in the ***Midwest***, warm weather is elevating soil temperatures and promoting a northward expansion of fieldwork, including corn planting.
- ***In the South***, warm, dry weather favors winter grain development and summer crop planting and emergence. However, record warmth and diminishing soil moisture reserves are beginning to stress pastures, winter grains, and emerging summer crops in the ***middle and southern Atlantic States***.

Outlook: A late-season snow storm will linger across the ***northern Rockies and northern High Plains*** through week's end, while summer-like conditions (warm weather and scattered showers) will prevail across the ***Midwest, South, and East***. During the weekend, locally heavy rainfall is forecast to develop across the ***interior South***, including the ***southern Ohio Valley***. However, little or no precipitation is expected in primary winter wheat areas on the ***central and southern Plains***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for April 23-27 calls for below-normal temperatures across the ***North*** and warm, dry weather in the ***Deep South***. Near the boundary between warm and cool air, locally heavy showers and thunderstorms are possible across the ***Midwest*** and portions of the ***interior South***. Mostly dry weather will prevail in the ***West***.

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